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Influence of Giant CCN on warm rain processes

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Influence of Giant CCN on warm rain processes in the ECHAM5 GCM

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Abstract

Increased Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN) load due to anthropogenic activity might lead to non-precipitating clouds because the cloud drops become smaller (for a constant liquid water content) and, therefore, less efficient in rain formation (aerosol indirect effect). Adding giant CCN (GCCN) into such a cloud can initiate precipitation (namely, drizzle) and, therefore, might counteract the aerosol indirect effect.

The effect of GCCN on global climate, especially on clouds and precipitation, within a General Circulation Model (GCM) is investigated. GCCN are aerosol particles larger than 5–10 μm in radius that can act as cloud condensation nuclei. One prominent GCCN species is sea salt. Sea salt concentrations depend mainly on wind speed but also on relative humidity, stability and precipitation history. Natural variability is much larger than the simulated one because sea salt emissions within ECHAM5 are a function of wind speed only. Giant sea salt concentrations in ECHAM5 are determined by using the tail of the coarse mode aerosol distribution with cutoff radii of 5 μm or 10 μm . It is assumed that activated GCCN particles directly form rain drops (of 25 μm size). Thereby, the added rain water mass and number stems from the redistribution of the condensed water into cloud and rain water according to the number of activated GCCN. As the formed precipitation is most likely drizzle with rather small drops a prognostic rain scheme is applied to account for the lower fall speeds and, therefore, slower sedimentation of the drizzle drops.

The ECHAM5 simulations with incorporated GCCN show that precipitation is affected only locally. Cloud properties like liquid water and cloud drop number show a larger sensitivity to GCCN. On the one hand, the increased rain water mass causes an increase in the accretion rate and, therefore, in the rain production. On the other hand, very high GCCN concentrations can lead to an artificially exaggerated transfer of cloud water to the rain class which then results in a strong decrease of the conversion rate and the rain production.

The introduction of the GCCN reduces the anthropogenic increase of liquid water

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in the atmosphere from pre-industrial to present day because clouds are precipitating faster in the presence of the GCCN. Hence, the accumulation of liquid water in the atmosphere is reduced. According to those changes in the cloud properties, the radiative budget is also changing. The GCCN cause a reduction of the anthropogenic aerosol indirect effect of about $0.1\text{--}0.25\text{ W m}^{-2}$ which corresponds to 5–10% of the total effect. Thus, the GCCN in ECHAM5 partly offset the anthropogenic aerosol indirect effect.

1 Introduction

Clouds play an important role in the energy budget of the earth. Anthropogenic influences change the radiative properties of clouds. Aerosol particles and their precursors emitted from the earth's surface, in particular, are thought to change the physical and optical properties of clouds. The first indirect effect refers to decreasing cloud droplet sizes as the concentration of (anthropogenic) aerosols increases. For a constant liquid water content, the higher number of smaller cloud droplets leads to an increase in the cloud albedo and therefore, in the planetary albedo. Furthermore, it is more unlikely that the cloud droplets will grow to precipitation sized drops. This presumably results in a prolonged lifetime of clouds within the atmosphere. This second aerosol indirect effect also causes an increase in the planetary albedo. However, the size of both of these effects is still very uncertain. In contrast to most of the (small) aerosols that act as Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN), giant CCN (GCCN, e.g., sea salt) are suggested to have an enhancing effect on the formation of precipitation (i.e., drizzle) (e.g., Rosenfeld et al., 2002; Johnson, 1982; Feingold et al., 1999; Zhang et al., 2006).

1.1 Sea salt measurements and parameterizations

Sea salt is the dominant aerosol species over the ocean. The direct effect of sea salt on climate is a cooling due to the scattering of incoming solar radiation of -1.51 to -5.03 W m^{-2} at top of the atmosphere (TOA) (Schulz et al., 2004). Sea salt acts as a

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very good CCN and, therefore, also has an indirect effect on climate via cloud formation. The emission of sea salt is mainly driven by wind speed. Turbulent and convective mixing and gravitational settling contribute to the sea salt distribution in the marine boundary layer as well (Fitzgerald, 1991). Sea salt aerosols of different sizes form by various mechanisms (Andreas et al., 1995). At lower wind speeds ($u_{10} > 3\text{--}5\text{ m s}^{-1}$) sea salt is emitted by bubble breaking of the whitecaps of the ocean. Thereby, air is getting entrained in the oceanic surface layer which depends mainly on the wind stress. The generated film droplets produce a few hundred sea salt particles (per bubble) with radii lower than $3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. Furthermore, jet drops are formed which result in a few (1 to 6) sea salt particles with sizes of $r = 3\text{--}20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. Stronger winds ($u_{10} > 7\text{--}11\text{ m s}^{-1}$) cause a mechanical tearing of the wave crest. Spume drops are generated by tearing of drops by the wind and splash drops are the spillings of the breaking wave. Both mechanisms result in sea salt particles larger than $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

Measurements of sea salt are usually taken in the surface layer at a height of about 10–20 m. Some observations also include towers at the shore (40 m, O'Dowd et al., 1997) and flights (Reid et al., 2001). The total particle concentration over the ocean is $100\text{--}300\text{ cm}^{-3}$ (Fitzgerald, 1991). Thereby, the smaller particles ($r < 3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) make up 90–95% of the total number concentration and about 5% of total mass. These particles consist mainly of non-sea-salt sulphate. The larger the particles become the higher is the sea salt fraction, i.e., the ratio of sea salt to total aerosol. Particles larger than $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (coarse mode aerosol) consist mainly of sea salt ($\sim 60\text{--}100\%$) (Lewis and Schwartz, 2004; Fitzgerald, 1991). If dust is present, then sea salt and dust are equally distributed (Fitzgerald, 1991). Coarse mode particles are found at concentrations of $5\text{--}30\text{ cm}^{-3}$ (Fitzgerald, 1991). Giant sea salt ($r > 5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) is much less abundant. Concentrations of $10^{-4}\text{--}10^{-2}\text{ cm}^{-3}$ were found by Feingold et al. (1999). Smith et al. (1989) reports values of $10^{-4}\text{--}10^{-2}\text{ cm}^{-3}$ for calm conditions up to $0.1\text{--}1\text{ cm}^{-3}$ with strong winds ($u_{10} \sim 30\text{ m s}^{-1}$).

Sea salt aerosols smaller than $10\text{--}25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ are assumed to be well mixed in the marine boundary layer because they experience a rapid mixing and little influence of the gravity

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(Lewis and Schwartz, 2004; Reid et al., 2001). Particles larger than $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ are well mixed throughout the surface layer (few meters above the sea surface) (Lewis and Schwartz, 2004) but they are highly affected by gravitational settling. In an unstable boundary layer the mixing is enhanced by turbulence and convection, whereas in a stable atmosphere mixing and, thus, sea salt concentrations are diminished above the surface layer.

The incorporation of sea salt emissions in General Circulation Models (GCM), such as the ECHAM5, is done by a sea salt generation or source function. Usually, it is a wind dependent flux (per size) of sea salt from the ocean surface (Schulz et al., 2004). Some source functions assume steady state conditions where the surface production balances the removal by dry deposition (Schulz et al., 2004). However, this assumption is only true for relatively small sea salt particles. The larger the particles and/or the higher the wind speeds become the longer it takes them to reach steady state (Reid et al., 2001). The derivation of the sea salt generation functions is based on field observations (e.g., Smith and Harrison, 1998) and (additional) laboratory measurements (e.g., Monahan et al., 1986). A limitation for these relationships is the size range covered by the instruments. Combinations of existing generation functions are used to obtain sea salt generation functions that cover larger size ranges, a variety of wind speed conditions and fit available observations (Guelle et al., 2001; Andreas, 1998).

1.2 Clouds, precipitation and Giant CCN

The impact of GCCN on the formation of precipitation is the subject of various studies. Johnson (1982) combined a condensation model with two collection models (parcel and trajectory model). Cloud water was formed on an aerosol distribution (including ultra-giant CCN: $r > 10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) by condensation. Giant and ultra-giant CCN produce a tail of large droplets within the cloud droplet distribution. The resulting cloud droplets take part in collision/coalescence processes. Very large drops ($\sim 60\text{--}100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) contribute most to the precipitation formation because they have a high collection efficiency. It was also found that continental clouds are inefficient in producing precipitation if no giant

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or ultra-giant CCN are available, whereas, maritime clouds depend less on GCCN for precipitation formation. Sedimentation of droplets is considered in the trajectory model. Thus, very large drops become less important because they fall out of the cloud before taking part in the collection processes. Therefore, the drop sizes important for rain production are shifted to lower sizes ($\sim 20\text{--}50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) but they are still due to GCCN.

Similar studies with a wide range of models – a collection box model, a trajectory model, a 2 dimensional eddy-resolving model and a 3 dimensional large eddy simulation (LES) model – were conducted by Feingold et al. (1999). Measured GCCN concentrations of $10^{-4}\text{--}10^{-2}\text{ cm}^{-3}$ (within the lowermost 30 m) and background aerosol concentrations of $50\text{--}250\text{ cm}^{-3}$ were used in the model simulations. It was again found that the more GCCN were present the more drizzle was produced. Thereby, the relative effect of the GCCN is increased with increasing background aerosol concentration (i.e., with increasing pollution). Nevertheless, the polluted cloud (high CCN concentrations) did not produce the same amount of drizzle as the clean cloud (low CCN concentration). Furthermore, it was found that a cloud in the presence of GCCN has a lower optical thickness and, therefore, a lower albedo. Hence, the GCCN might be able to moderate the effects of anthropogenic CCN on clouds and climate.

Partly contradictory results to previous studies were presented by Zhang et al. (2006). They investigated the effect of CCN concentration on precipitation in low level, warm stratiform marine and continental clouds with a one dimensional model including size-resolved cloud microphysics. Seeding a polluted, non-precipitating (“continental”) cloud with GCCN initiates precipitation. The GCCN lower the supersaturation in the cloud as they are preferentially activated. Small aerosol particles, originating from small, evaporated droplets, do not become reactivated. Thus, the total number of droplets decreases, whereas the size increases which results in an enhanced rain production. If, on the other hand, GCCN are already present during cloud formation, then the GCCN decelerate precipitation and have only little impact on the precipitation intensity. The activated aerosol particles cannot grow to larger sizes by condensation as the GCCN take up high amounts of the available water vapor and lower the super-

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saturation. This inhibits the broadening of drop spectra which is auxiliary in initiating rain.

Rosenfeld et al. (2002) investigated the effect of GCCN on clouds by evaluating satellite measurements. This study concentrates on deep convective clouds in the outflow region of the Indian subcontinent. The clouds disappeared the longer they were over the ocean and the further they were away from the continent. Sea salt aerosols from the ocean get mixed into the cloud which forms relatively large drops that collect the smaller drops more efficiently and the cloud starts to precipitate. The wet deposition of aerosols by rain leads to a cleaner environment which causes subsequently formed clouds to precipitate more readily. This positive feedback results in further cleansing of the atmosphere.

All these studies show that the GCCN might have a non-negligible effect on the cloud and precipitation formation over the ocean. Decreasing drop number with a concurrent increase in drop size will lower the cloud albedo and, thus, result in a reduction of the cloud albedo effect. The acceleration in precipitation initiation would additionally lead to a reduction of the cloud lifetime effect. However, the effect of GCCN is not yet incorporated in recent GCMs. Thus, the estimates of the aerosol indirect effect might be too high.

In this paper, ECHAM5 simulations are used to determine the effect of giant sea salt aerosol on cloud processes and, therefore, on precipitation formation as well as on the global radiative budget. Firstly, sensitivity studies with the ECHAM5 Single Column Model (SCM) are conducted using prescribed CCN and GCCN concentrations. Global simulation of present day climate are compared to pre-industrial simulations both with and without incorporated GCCN.

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2 Model description and setup

2.1 The general circulation model ECHAM5

The ECHAM5-GCM is based on the ECMWF model and has been further developed at the Max-Planck-Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg. Within ECHAM5 the prognostic equations for temperature, surface pressure, divergence and vorticity are solved on a spectral grid with a triangular truncation (Roeckner et al., 2003). Prognostic equations for cloud water and cloud drop number concentration, for cloud ice and the ice crystal number concentration as well as detailed cloud microphysics are used according to Lohmann et al. (2007). In order to incorporate the GCCN and their effect on precipitation properly, prognostic equations for rain water mass mixing ratio and rain drop number concentration were introduced into the ECHAM5 (Posselt and Lohmann, 2007¹, simulation ECHAM5-RAIN). Considered processes include autoconversion of cloud droplets to rain and accretion of cloud droplets by rain (Khairoutdinov and Kogan, 2000), self-collection of rain drops (Seifert and Beheng, 2001), evaporation of rain (Rotstajn, 1997) and melting of snow (Lohmann and Roeckner, 1996). The sedimentation of the rain drops is treated as a vertical one dimensional advection with an explicit fall speed. The fall speed is a function of rain water mass and number and is limited by the grid velocity (layer height/model time step). Furthermore, all processes involved in rain formation are evaluated repeatedly on smaller sub-time steps within one model time step. Single Column Model (SCM) simulations by Posselt and Lohmann (2007)¹ showed that the prognostic rain scheme has little influence on the precipitation amount itself but it shifts the emphasis from autoconversion to accretion in better agreement with observations (Wood, 2005).

¹Posselt, R. and Lohmann, U.: Introduction of prognostic rain in ECHAM5: Design and Single Column Model simulations, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., submitted, 2007.

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2.2 Coupling GCCN and Prognostic Rain

Atmospheric aerosol distributions are represented by a double moment scheme consisting of a superposition of 7 lognormal distributions of different size ranges, solubilities, and chemical constituents within the aerosol module HAM (Stier et al., 2005).

5 GCCN are not explicitly included in the HAM thus soluble coarse mode particles with $r > 10 \mu\text{m}$ (ECHAM5-GCCN₁₀) or $r > 5 \mu\text{m}$ (ECHAM5-GCCN₅) are regarded as GCCN in this study. It is further assumed that over the ocean the coarse mode aerosol consists only of sea salt. The GCCN get activated together with the rest of the aerosol particles by the activation scheme of Lin and Leaitch (1997). This is an empirical scheme that
10 only depends on aerosol number and vertical velocity. Thus, the competition effect of GCCN and CCN and the lowering of the supersaturation by the GCCN is not included. The activation of the aerosol particles and the following condensation of water vapor onto the particles assuming saturation adjustment (Roeckner et al., 2003) is done for the whole aerosol spectra. GCCN are not treated separately. Afterwards, the total
15 condensed liquid water is redistributed between the rain water mixing ratio which corresponds to the water uptake by the GCCN and the cloud water mixing ratio which is due to the activation of the CCN. The redistribution is based on the number of activated GCCN. The number of rain drops formed by the activation of GCCN is equal to the number of activated GCCN. The rain water formed by the activation of GCCN is
20 given by the mass of the newly formed rain drop times the number of activated GCCN and is limited by the total amount of condensed water. The radius of the rain drops originating from GCCN is assumed to be $25 \mu\text{m}$. This radius is chosen analogous to the rain drop distinction radius used by Khairoutdinov and Kogan (2000) in their cloud microphysics parameterization. As shown in Fig. 1, the smallest GCCN ($5 \mu\text{m}$) grows
25 to more than $25 \mu\text{m}$ in less than 15 min, i.e., within less than one model time step.

The schematic in Fig. 2 summarizes the changes within the large-scale cloud microphysics scheme due to the GCCN. Thereby, changes or additions are marked in blue. This includes the retrieval of the GCCN number concentration from the HAM

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aerosols and their subsequent activation to rain drops with a radius of 25 μm within the prognostic rain scheme.

2.3 Model setup

The SCM simulations are conducted at a T63 horizontal resolution (corresponds to 1.875° \times 1.875°). In the vertical, 31 model levels are used with the uppermost layer at 10 hPa. A simulation time step of 15 min is applied. Meteorological conditions are forced using data from the EPIC (Eastern Pacific Investigation of Climate Processes) campaign (Bretherton et al., 2004) which took place in September and October 2001 in the eastern Pacific off the coast of Ecuador and Peru (see also Posselt and Lohmann, 2007¹).

For the global simulations, a T42 horizontal resolution (corresponds to 2.8125° \times 2.8125°) with 19 vertical model levels (uppermost layer at 10 hPa) and a time step of 30 min is used. The simulations are integrated for 10 years after a 3 month spin-up using climatological sea-surface temperatures and sea-ice extend. For the simulations in this study the relative humidity based cloud cover scheme of Sundqvist et al. (1989) is used. The global simulations are done for the standard ECHAM5 as described in Lohmann et al. (2007) (ECHAM5-HAM), for the ECHAM5 with the prognostic equations for rain (ECHAM5-RAIN) and for ECHAM5-RAIN with GCCN included (ECHAM5-GCCN_{10,5} for the different cutoff radii, respectively). ECHAM5-RAIN and ECHAM5-GCCN employ 10 sub-time steps within the prognostic rain scheme. The aerosol indirect effect (AIE) is estimated by comparing present day (PD) to pre-industrial (PI) simulations. For the PI simulation, aerosol emission representative of the year 1750 are used (Dentener et al., 2006).

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3 Results and discussion

3.1 SCM sensitivity study

The sensitivity study is conducted with the single column version of ECHAM5. The set up is similar to Feingold et al. (1999) but with different parameters. The number of GCCN is prescribed with 10^{-4} , 10^{-3} , 10^{-2} , 10^{-1} and 1 cm^{-3} . The number of background CCN is prescribed with 50, 250 and 500 cm^{-3} . For this sensitivity study, the size of the activated GCCN rain drops is varied between 12, 25 or $55\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

These values are chosen so that volume and mass of the GCCN induced rain drops experiences a tenfold increase from the smaller to the larger size. The larger the generated rain drops the more condensed water is transferred into rain water and the less water is available for the cloud droplets.

The results shown in Fig. 3 are averages over the whole simulation period of 6 days. The effect of the GCCN is only visible at quite high GCCN and CCN concentrations. The precipitation at cloud base (Fig. 3, upper left panel) decreases with increasing CCN concentrations. This is known as the second aerosol indirect effect where more but smaller cloud droplets are less efficient in rain production and, thus, lead to reduced precipitation and a longer cloud lifetime. An increase in GCCN results in a concurrent increase in precipitation. The incorporation of the GCCN cannot, however, completely compensate the effect of the increased CCN concentrations. In case of high GCCN concentration and a large initial rain drop size ($55\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) the precipitation increase is decelerated or even reversed (for low CCN). This is due to the large fraction of condensed liquid water that is transferred to rain water by the activation of GCCN so that only little cloud water is left. This inhibits autoconversion and accretion so that no additional rain formation takes place. Furthermore, the rain drops are so large that they fall out quite fast and, therefore, are not available for the accretion process. This can also be seen in the differences of the precipitation at cloud base for the various simulations shown in Fig. 4. The precipitation formation is more efficient with smaller activated rain drops at higher GCCN concentration because sufficient cloud water is left for an efficient auto-

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conversion process. Moreover, the rain drops sediment slow enough to take part in the accretion. The differences are based on the same rain mass formed by the activation of the GCCN. I.e., a $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ drop at 10^{-2} cm^{-3} forms about the same amount of rain water mass as a $12\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ drop at 10^{-1} cm^{-3} or a $55\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ drop at 10^{-3} cm^{-3} when calculating the difference between “more GCCN, smaller drops” and “less GCCN, larger drops”.

The total water path is the sum of liquid water path and the rain water path ($\text{TWP} = \text{LWP} + \text{RWP}$). The TWP is larger for a higher number of CCN but is decreasing as the number of GCCN is increasing (see Fig. 4, upper right panel). This corresponds to the changes in the precipitation. The changes in TWP are mainly due to changes in the LWP. The more GCCN are used and the larger the initial rain drop size the larger is the initial RWP and, therefore, the LWP is decreasing. This causes the described reduction of the autoconversion and accretion rates. The equilibrium RWP is quite constant with regard to the GCCN concentrations because any additional rain water is falling out as precipitation. Similar to the precipitation, RWP is lower for higher CCN concentrations.

The total cloud cover shown in Fig. 3 (lower panel) only shows a slight sensitivity to the CCN and GCCN concentration. Increasing GCCN concentrations result in slightly lower cloud cover. The strong decrease in cloud cover for the $55\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ rain drop size is connected to the strong reduction in total water.

3.2 Global simulations

3.2.1 Model validation

The results of the global simulations are summarized in Fig. 5 and Table 1. The conclusions of the model evaluation with observations mainly follows Lohmann et al. (2007) as observational uncertainties are quite large and/or changes in the model variables for the different simulations are rather small. However, some variables show differences, either in annual global mean (see Table 1) or in the annual zonal means (see Fig. 5). The annual global means are shown for the ECHAM5-HAM, ECHAM5-RAIN and ECHAM5-GCCN simulations for the present day (PD) setup.

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The Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP) dataset provides monthly averaged precipitation fields from satellite and surface rain gauge measurements on a $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ grid for a period from 1979 up to now (Huffman et al., 1997; Adler et al., 2003). Compared to this dataset, ECHAM5 generally produces too much precipitation.

The zonal mean (Fig. 5) reveals that the precipitation in the tropics is overestimated by ECHAM5 which points to deficiencies in the convective cloud scheme. Nevertheless, the overall agreement in the zonal distribution is satisfactory. The incorporation of the GCCN hardly affects the precipitation amount zonally and globally. Compared to ECHAM5-HAM (Table 1), the total precipitation amount is hardly affected by the introduction of the prognostic rain scheme and the incorporation of the GCCN. A slight increase is given for the stratiform precipitation due to the slowing down of the rain and thus increasing the rain production by accretion in the stratiform cloud microphysics scheme. Feedbacks to the convection results in a slight decrease of convective precipitation.

The International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP, Rossow and Schiffer, 1999) provides total cloud amount on a grid size of 280 km (ISCCP D2 dataset). Surface observations collected by Hahn et al. (1994) cover mainly the northern hemisphere, only limited coverage is given for the southern hemisphere. The annual global mean of total simulated cloud cover (Table 1) is at the lower end of the observations for all simulations. For the zonal mean, the agreement is best in the tropics and in the midlatitudes but in the subtropics the cloud cover is largely underestimated due to an underrepresentation of stratocumulus cloud decks off the west coasts of North and South America and Africa. In higher latitudes, differences are due to the uncertainties in the measurements. The global mean cloud cover is slightly decreasing for the ECHAM5-GCCN simulation but that can not be seen for the zonal distributions.

The satellite (SSM/I) retrievals of the LWP (Greenwald et al., 1993; Weng and Grody, 1994; Wentz, 1997) are only available over the oceans. They show a high variability for the annual global mean and also for the zonal mean. The observed LWP is compared to the TWP of the simulations because the model artificially distinguishes between the

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smaller cloud drops and the larger rain drops that the satellites do not make. The TWP produced by the ECHAM5-HAM simulation falls within the range given by the observations. The introduction of the prognostic rain scheme results in a redistribution of the total water and changes in the cloud microphysics compared to the ECHAM5-HAM which results in an underestimation of the TWP in comparison to the observations. This can also be seen in the zonal distribution of the TWP in Fig. 5. The main decrease due to the introduction of the prognostic rain appears in the midlatitudes where the precipitation formation is mainly done via the large-scale cloud scheme. The introduction of GCCN results in an additional slight decrease in the TWP as discussed further in Sect. 3.2.3. In the tropics, the differences between ECHAM5-HAM and ECHAM5-RAIN/GCCN are small.

Observations of vertically integrated cloud drop number N_I and effective radius R_{eff} at cloud top for warm clouds ($T > 0^\circ\text{C}$) are retrieved from the ISCCP dataset by Han et al. (1994, 1998) for an area between -50° and 50° based on four months of 1987. Similar to the TWP, the annual global means show that the ECHAM5-HAM simulation of N_I agree well with the observations whereas the ECHAM5-RAIN and ECHAM5-GCCN simulations underestimate N_I . This results in a quite constant R_{eff} for all simulations but compared to the observations R_{eff} is underestimated. The zonal mean of N_I shows an underestimation in the midlatitudes especially on the northern hemisphere for the ECHAM5-RAIN/GCCN simulations.

Obviously, the agreement of TWP and N_I gets worse due to the implementation of the prognostic rain scheme. But one has to bear in mind that the prognostic rain changes the hydrological cycle and therefore also feeds back to the radiative budget. Thus, the ECHAM5-RAIN/GCCN simulations are no longer in radiative balance at top of the atmosphere (TOA). ECHAM5-RAIN/GCCN would need retuning within the large-scale cloud scheme to achieve radiative balance at TOA, which additionally would affect TWP and N_I and presumably improve the agreement with the observations. However, this study focus on the relative changes due to the incorporation of the GCCN, which should be independent on the tuning state of the model. Thus, no retuning was applied

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for this study.

The zonal mean of short-wave and long-wave cloud forcing (SCF and LCF) as obtained from the Earth radiation budget experiment (ERBE, Kiehl et al., 1994) are in good agreement with the ECHAM5 simulations except in higher latitudes for the SCF and in the tropics for the LCF. For the LCF, additional data from the TOVS-B satellite (Susskind et al., 1997) is shown which give better agreement with the ECHAM5 data in the tropics but is lower in the mid-latitudes. The differences in the different measurements illustrate the uncertainties of the observations. The short-wave cloud forcing is slightly decreasing with the prognostic rain scheme due to lower TWP. The long-wave cloud forcing is not affected by the prognostic rain scheme and the GCCN.

3.2.2 Validation of GCCN concentrations

The column integrated GCCN burden obtained by ECHAM5-GCCN_{10.5} for the different cutoff radii are shown in Fig. 6. The GCCN burden is about 4 to 5 orders of magnitude lower than the total aerosol burden. The highest GCCN loads are present in the storm tracks of the southern ocean and the north Atlantic and Pacific where high wind speeds are predominant. Relatively low GCCN burdens are found in the tropics and off the west coasts of the continents, which results from rather low wind speeds in these areas. The cutoff radius has a strong impact on the GCCN load of the atmosphere. Doubling the cutoff radius from 5 µm to 10 µm causes a decrease in GCCN burden by an order of magnitude.

Figure 7 shows sea salt number distributions for different wind speed classes from observations and from ECHAM5-HAM. The observed size distribution were taken from Lewis and Schwartz (2004). They compiled measurements from various authors, converted the distributions to number distributions ($dn/d \ln(r)$) and arranged them according to the reported wind speed. The observations were taken over the northern Atlantic, at measuring sites along the eastern and western U.S., during ship cruises in the East-China Sea, the Indian Ocean and within the southern storm track. The presented measurements were taken at heights of 5 to 20 m above sea level. Within the

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well mixed marine boundary layer the concentrations should not vary much with height. Measuring techniques include impaction sampling on filters or glass slides with subsequent investigation by electron microscopy, optical detection of aerosol particles and thermal volatility measurements. In their compilation [Lewis and Schwartz \(2004\)](#) excluded measurements of continental air masses (at maritime sites) and measurements from surf zones. The simulated size distributions are represented by the superposition of the soluble accumulation and coarse mode distribution of the aerosol module HAM limited to the oceans. As a measure of variability of the size distribution the minimum-maximum range of the observations and the 5% and 95% percentiles of the simulation are shown as well.

It can be seen that the simulated sea salt size distribution reproduces the observations quite well. However, the simulation shows a tendency to slightly underestimate the observed size distributions. The simulated number of giant sea salt particles shows a larger underestimation especially for higher wind speeds but the concentrations within this size range are rather low. However, one has also to bear in mind that the observations are limited to a certain area and cover only some days of measurements. Considering these limitations, the assumption of using the tail of the coarse mode distribution to obtain the GCCN concentration is appropriate.

The validation of the giant sea salt concentration is done by a point-to-point comparison of observed and simulated concentrations. Therefore, the number distributions reported by [Lewis and Schwartz \(2004\)](#) are integrated with respect to the chosen cutoff radius of 5 or 10 μm . The obtained concentrations are then compared to the simulated GCCN concentration at the same location in the lowest model level. The results are presented in Fig. 8. First of all it can be seen that the natural variability of the GCCN concentration is much larger than the simulated one because the modeled concentration depends mainly on the wind speed whereas the observed concentration are also influenced by various other factors. [Lewis and Schwartz \(2004\)](#) stated that the variability of the measured sea salt concentration is rather large even if measured at the same location and with the same instrument. They argued that the sea salt concen-

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tration depends not only on the wind speed but also on the ambient relative humidity, the stability of the atmosphere, the mixing layer height, the time since the last rain and the history of all of these factors within the measured air mass. The comparison for the 5 μm cutoff (Fig. 8, lower panel) shows that the ECHAM5-GCCN underestimates the GCCN concentrations. A large portion of the data points are more than a factor of 10 smaller than the observed values. Using a cutoff radius of 10 μm (Fig. 8, upper panel) improves the agreement between simulated and observed GCCN concentrations. Most model data fall within a factor of 10 of the observations. Furthermore, the obtained GCCN concentrations for the 10 μm cutoff agree much better with the GCCN concentrations of $10^{-2} - 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ reported by Feingold et al. (1999).

3.2.3 Incorporation of GCCN

The changes in the model results due to the additional incorporation of GCCN are summarized in Figs. 5 (annual zonal means) and 9 (global distribution) and in Table 1. Thereby, the differences between the ECHAM5-GCCN and the ECHAM5-RAIN simulations are considered. For precipitation and total cloud cover the differences are rather small. In the zonal means (Fig. 5) hardly any change is visible.

Nevertheless, the difference plots in Fig. 9 reveal that there are slight changes in the precipitation patterns. Whether there is a reduction or an enhancement of precipitation depends on how much water is transferred to the rain class and how strong autoconversion, accretion and evaporation are influenced by that. The changes in the stratiform precipitation (Fig. 9, left panel) are rather small. The precipitation changes for the 5 and 10 μm cutoff follow the same patterns and are of same magnitude.

Major changes are visible over the oceanic storm track regions that can be directly attributed to the presence of GCCN and their impact on the rain formation. Over the continents no GCCN are present, thus, the changes over the midlatitude and subtropic continents are indirectly influenced by the GCCN due to changes in the hydrological cycle. Over the continents the changes in large-scale precipitation is directly correlated to changes in the TWP (Fig. 9, right panel), i.e., more TWP leads to enhanced precipi-

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tation (e.g., Europe, Amazonia, north-east and south-east China) and less TWP leads to lower precipitation rates (e.g., eastern North-America). The changes in the hydrological cycle also feed back to the convective precipitation (Fig. 9, middle panel shows total precipitation = large-scale + convective precipitation). Changes in the precipitation patterns upwind of the convective regions lead to changes in the moisture field that triggers convection within ECHAM5. More upwind precipitation results in a dryer atmosphere and therefore less convection and vice versa. The most striking changes in convective precipitation are visible over the warm pool (i.e., Indonesia) which is mainly due to enhanced precipitation upwind in the western Pacific. A similar feature appears in the Amazon region.

The incorporation of GCCN causes further changes to the TWP. The choice of the 5 μm cutoff leads to a stronger decrease in TWP than for the 10 μm cutoff. The GCCN concentration are higher with the 5 μm cutoff so that larger amounts of condensed water are transferred to the rain class leaving less for the cloud water. This results in lower autoconversion and accretion rates. Therefore, the changes in the precipitation are to a lesser extend due to physical changes in the microphysics but are rather caused by large amounts of rain water stemming from the artificial redistribution of the condensed water. In contrast, the simulations with the 10 μm cutoff show only slight changes (in both directions) in the TWP (Fig. 9). The zonal distribution shows hardly any difference for the ECHAM5-RAIN and the ECHAM5-GCCN₁₀ simulations. Due to the lower GCCN concentrations, less condensed water is transferred to the rain class leaving a larger amount for the cloud water class. Hence, the autoconversion does not change very much. However, the slight increase in rain water is enough to enhance the accretion rate considerably. Therefore, the shown changes in the precipitation patterns are mainly due to physical changes in the cloud microphysics. Furthermore, the changes in the hydrological cycle due to the GCCN might also lead to changes in the relative humidity and, thus, in the amount of condensed water which in turn effects the amount of rain and cloud water.

Considering GCCN leads to a slight reduction of the SCF in regions where the TWP

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decreases. Globally, this leads to a lower SCF in the ECHAM5-GCCN simulations and, thus, to less cooling due to clouds. The LCF is not influenced by the GCCN.

3.2.4 Diurnal cycles

In the following, special regions are chosen to estimate the influence of GCCN on the diurnal cycle and the amount of precipitation. According to the hypothesis that GCCN are most influential in heavily polluted air, maritime regions that encounter heavy polluted plumes from continental sites and show a considerable amount of GCCN are selected, namely, the Indian ocean region close to the Indian subcontinent, the East-China Sea and the North-West Atlantic in the vicinity of the eastern US and Canada (see Fig. 10).

The considered regions are characterized by high aerosol loads during the summer months due to either dust outbreaks from the nearby deserts (IND and CHINA), from biomass burning and from industrial emissions (Chu and Remer, 2006). During the winter months the aerosol load is reduced.

The simulated precipitation rates are compared to precipitation estimates based on TRMM (Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission) measurements. The estimates encompass a 3-hourly quasi-global data set from 50° S to 50° N on a 2.5°×2.5° grid. Data are available from February 2002 to the present.

Figure 11 shows the diurnal cycles of precipitation as a mean over 10 years simulation and 6 years TRMM-based precipitation estimates for winter and summer months. The Indian ocean region is characterized by mainly convective precipitation and hardly any large-scale precipitation (dashed lines). For the CHINA and ATL regions the large-scale precipitation is dominating during the winter months (December–February), whereas, the summer months (June–August) are characterized mainly by convective precipitation. The large-scale precipitation is directly influenced by the presence of GCCN, whereas, the convective precipitation is only indirectly affected through changes in the hydrological cycle or in the moisture budget.

For the winter months ECHAM5 is able to reproduce the shape of the diurnal cycle

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and the precipitation amount quite well. In the IND case the diurnal cycle of ECHAM5 simulation is shifted to earlier hours but the total precipitation amount is captured well. For the CHINA and the ATL case only a slight diurnal cycle is visible for the simulations and the observations. ECHAM5 underestimates the precipitation for CHINA and for ATL. The differences due to the GCCN are small and affect mainly the amount and not the shape of the diurnal cycle. For the IND and the CHINA region, the precipitation rate in slightly increasing for the GCCN₁₀ simulation slightly improving the agreement with the observations. Using higher GCCN concentrations in the GCCN₅ simulation leads to a reduction of the precipitation rate. The ATL region experiences a precipitation decrease when GCCN are included. This behavior results from lowered autoconversion and accretion rates due to an exaggerated transfer of condensed water to rain water because too many GCCN are present.

Regarding the summer months, ECHAM5 overestimates the precipitation amount. The diurnal cycle is reproduced quite well for all regions. For the IND and the ATL region the precipitation amount is overestimated but the shape and the amplitude of the diurnal cycle is captured quite well. In case of CHINA, the diurnal cycle is shifted and the amplitude is exaggerated by ECHAM5. Including a small amount of GCCN leads to an increase in precipitation. But an increase in GCCN concentration can lead to a subsequent reduction in precipitation. The convection scheme is not directly influenced by the GCCN, hence, the changes in convective precipitation are triggered by changes in the hydrological cycle due to small changes in the large-scale precipitation and changes in the upstream precipitation patterns.

3.2.5 Present day vs. pre-industrial

The difference between present day and pre-industrial simulations gives an estimate of the effect of anthropogenic aerosols on the climate. In Table 2 the differences in the annual global means due to anthropogenic aerosols for the ECHAM5 simulations are summarized. Lohmann et al. (2007) discussed the results of the ECHAM5-HAM simulation (their ECHAM5-RH simulation). The introduction of the prognostic rain re-

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sults in a smaller increase of TWP due to anthropogenic aerosol effects. Note that the differences in the TWP are obtained over ocean and land. The incorporation of GCCN further reduces the difference between present day and pre-industrial TWP. Thus, the increase in TWP due to enhanced, anthropogenic aerosol numbers is partly compensated by the presence of GCCN. The same effect is found for the total cloud cover and the cloud drop number. The changes in cloud drop effective radius (at cloud top) is quite constant throughout the ECHAM5 simulations. The changes in global precipitation due to anthropogenic activity are rather faint which is due to the application of fixed sea-surface temperatures within the simulations and, thus, fixed evaporation from the oceans.

Closely connected to the cloud cover and TWP is the TOA radiative budget. The short-wave (SW) radiation budget at TOA is lowest for ECHAM5-HAM. The prognostic rain scheme lowers the effect of aerosols on the short-wave radiation so that it becomes less negative with -1.85 Wm^{-2} . The incorporation of the GCCN partly compensates for the aerosol effects on clouds and reduce the short-wave radiation difference to -1.7 Wm^{-2} for ECHAM5-GCCN₁₀, which comprise lower GCCN concentration, and -1.45 Wm^{-2} for the ECHAM5-GCCN₅ simulation. Thus, the higher the GCCN concentrations the higher the compensation for the increased CCN concentrations. But, as stated before, increasing the GCCN concentration too much might lead to unphysical rain formation processes due to the redistribution of the condensed water. The long-wave (LW) radiation budget, which is closely connected to high clouds, shows much smaller differences between PI and PD. The prognostic rain scheme leads to a decrease of the LW difference from 0.43 Wm^{-2} to 0.16 Wm^{-2} due to a smaller increase in TWP and total cloud cover. The incorporation of the GCCN further reduces the LW difference. The difference in the net radiation between present day and pre-industrial climate is referred to as the anthropogenic aerosol effect including the direct and indirect effects. The net radiative effect of anthropogenic aerosols is most negative for ECHAM5-HAM with -1.75 Wm^{-2} . The incorporation of GCCN reduces the anthropogenic aerosol effect from -1.7 Wm^{-2} (ECHAM5-RAIN) to -1.6 Wm^{-2} for

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In Fig. 12 the differences in the zonal means between the present day and pre-industrial simulations are shown for precipitation, total cloud cover, TWP, cloud drop number and effective radius as well as for short-wave, long-wave and net TOA radiation.

The differences for the precipitation are rather noisy. Thus, the prognostic rain scheme and the incorporation of GCCN does not lead to systematic changes in the precipitation difference. The total cloud cover differences does not show a clear tendency to more or less cloudiness due the GCCN either. Regions with increased cloudiness due to the GCCN alternate with regions with decreased cloudiness.

The TWP and cloud drop number differences are largest in the northern hemisphere. Industrialization in Europe, North America and, recently, Asia result in enhanced aerosol number that act as CCN and influence cloud and precipitation formation. As Lohmann et al. (2007) stated the TWP increase is mainly due to a retardation of drizzle formation in clouds over the ocean. Hence, clouds (and cloud water) stay longer in the atmosphere. The presence of GCCN causes a reduction of the TWP and cloud drop number difference. Thus, the GCCN counteract the CCN increase and therefore reduce the aerosol indirect effects.

Consistent with the decrease in the TWP difference, the differences in the short-wave radiation (TOA) are smaller in the GCCN simulations. As the cloud top effective radius differences are rather similar for all ECHAM5 simulations the changes in the short-wave radiation differences are mainly due to changes in TWP and cloud cover. The long-wave radiation differences are much smaller than those for the short-wave radiation and are also much noisier. Nevertheless, the changes in the long-wave radiation partly compensate the changes in the short-wave radiation as can be seen from the net radiation. Overall, the anthropogenic aerosol effect is smaller in the GCCN simulation than for the ECHAM5-RAIN simulation.

Figure 13 shows the zonal mean changes of the GCCN concentration from pre-industrial to present day climate. GCCN concentrations are closely linked to the 10 m wind speed. Increasing wind speeds, which are found especially in the southern and

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northern storm tracks, lead to an increase of GCCN in this regions (and vice versa). The total aerosol concentration is increasing heavily especially over the northern hemisphere. This increase is mainly attributed to human activity and industrial development. Hence, the GCCN ratio which is defined as ratio between GCCN to total aerosol concentration is decreasing because the total aerosol increase is much stronger than the increase in GCCN concentrations. However, as shown in the SCM sensitivity studies the influence of the GCCN is larger in the present day climate than it is in the pre-industrial climate.

4 Conclusions

The effect of GCCN on the global climate, specifically on clouds and precipitation within a GCM, is investigated. The GCCN concentration is obtained by the tail of the (soluble/mixed) coarse mode distribution within the ECHAM5-HAM aerosol module for two different cutoff radii. GCCN are assumed to activate directly into rain drops because of their size. Within the model this is achieved by redistributing the total condensed water into cloud and rain water according to the number of GCCN and by assuming a rain drop size of 25 μm .

Sensitivity studies with the SCM version of ECHAM5 are carried out with different GCCN and CCN concentration as well as with different initial rain drop sizes in order to estimate the effect of the GCCN on cloud microphysical quantities. The GCCN have an impact on the precipitation formation processes in ECHAM5 and the used GCCN scheme is able to reproduce the results presented by Feingold et al. (1999). Nevertheless, larger GCCN concentrations are necessary within ECHAM5 to obtain a considerable effect. Too high GCCN concentrations or too large rain drops lead to an exaggerated transfer of the condensed water to the rain class at the expense of the cloud water. This reduces autoconversion and accretion rates and results in lowered precipitation rates. This effect is an artifact in the model because in nature large drops grow slower than smaller drops and, thus, the rain drops would not grow to those large

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sizes if water vapor is rare.

Direct observations of GCCN are rare but measurements of sea salt size distributions are available for several locations over the globe. Integration of the measured distributions for sizes larger than the chosen cutoff radii of 5 μm and 10 μm gives GCCN concentrations that are compared to the GCCN concentration obtained by ECHAM5. The natural variability of the GCCN is not fully captured in the model because simulated sea salt emissions depend mainly on wind speed and not on other factors like relative humidity, stability, precipitation history and others. The GCCN concentration for the 10 μm cutoff agree much better with the measured concentrations. Furthermore, the concentrations are about ten times lower than for the 5 μm cutoff, which brings them in better agreement with the GCCN concentrations reported by Feingold et al. (1999). Globally, the GCCN are concentrated in the windy regions, namely the storm tracks of the northern and southern hemisphere. Less GCCN are found in calm regions like the tropics and along the west coasts of the continents.

The introduction of the prognostic rain scheme leads to a strong decrease in the TWP compared to ECHAM5-HAM (Lohmann et al., 2007) putting the simulations at the lower end of the observations. To achieve a better agreement with the observations, ECHAM5-RAIN and ECHAM5-GCCN would require a retuning of the cloud microphysics. But relative changes due to the GCCN should be independent of the tuning state of the model, therefore, no retuning was applied in these studies.

The incorporation of the GCCN results in rather faint changes in the precipitation. In the global and zonal averages hardly any differences are detectable. The global patterns are zonally redistributed meaning that regions with an increasing precipitation rates alternate with regions with decreasing precipitation rates so that the zonal average does not change. Interestingly, the rather small changes in the large-scale precipitation patterns feed back to the convective precipitation scheme due to changes in the global moisture budget and distribution. The subsequent changes in the convective precipitation rates are larger than the changes in the large-scale precipitation rates.

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The analysis of the diurnal cycles showed that the GCCN change the amount but not the timing of local precipitation, therefore, changes in the shape of the diurnal cycles are not visible. But even the changes in the amount are rather small. In case of the clean winter cases the shape and amount of the diurnal cycle fits well. The GCCN itself have just little influence but too high GCCN concentrations might result in decreasing precipitation rates. The more polluted summer cases reproduce the diurnal cycle also quite well although ECHAM5 partly overestimates the precipitation rate and the amplitude of the diurnal cycle. The summer cases are mostly characterized by convective precipitation. The precipitation rates are, therefore, only indirectly influenced by the GCCN due to changes in the hydrological cycle.

Nevertheless, the GCCN change cloud properties such as TWP and N_f . This is either due to changes in the conversion rates or results from the redistribution of condensed water to rain water. For the simulations with the 10 μm cutoff the changes are not very large but mainly due to physical changes in the conversion rates. The 5 μm cutoff simulations show decreases of TWP and N_f especially over the ocean but this is partly due to the exaggerated transfer of condensed water to the rain class resulting from too high GCCN concentrations. Therefore, the 10 μm cutoff seems to be more appropriate to describe the effect of GCCN in the ECHAM5. The main changes between present day and pre-industrial simulations are found in the midlatitudes of the northern hemisphere where the strongest increase in anthropogenic aerosols is observed.

The changes in the cloud properties lead to subsequent changes in the radiative budget of the earth. The radiative effect of the GCCN is determined by evaluating the aerosol indirect effect from pre-industrial to present day conditions. GCCN are especially active in the planetary boundary layer influencing mainly the low clouds. Therefore, the impact of the GCCN is mainly visible in the net short-wave radiation budget at TOA that become less negative by 0.15–0.4 W m^{-2} globally. The global long-wave radiation budget is much less affected but local changes counteract the decreased short-wave budget. Thus, the total net radiative effect at TOA decreases by 0.08–0.27 W m^{-2} due to the GCCN meaning that the GCCN partly offset the aerosol

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indirect effects caused by increased anthropogenic CCN concentrations.

In summary, the incorporation of the GCCN changes the model state, especially the cloud properties like TWP and N_j . The precipitation changes only locally but globally the precipitation is unaffected because it is mainly determined by the large-scale forcing like available moisture. Changing the cloud properties leads to a reduction of the aerosol indirect effect and, hence, partly compensating for the increased anthropogenic CCN concentrations.

Further improvements of the ECHAM5-GCCN simulations will include more sophisticated numerical treatment of the sedimentation of rain drops in the prognostic rain scheme. The treatment of the GCCN activation should be treated separately to account for the preferred activation of larger CCN. Furthermore, the condensation of water vapor onto the GCCN should be done in a way that the unphysical exaggerated transfer of condensed water into rain for large GCCN concentrations is prevented.

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Table 1. Annual global mean cloud properties and TOA energy budget.

	ECHAM5-	GCCN ₅	GCCN ₁₀	RAIN	HAM	OBS
LWP	[g m ⁻²]	41.7	42.9	44.4	65.0	–
RWP	[g m ⁻²]	3.7	3.86	3.78	–	–
TWP	[g m ⁻²]	45.4	46.8	48.2	65.0	50 – 84
TCC	[%]	61.8	62.16	62.21	62.6	62 – 67
<i>N_f</i>	[10 ¹⁰ m ⁻²]	3.0	3.1	3.2	4.4	4
<i>R_{eff}</i>	[μm]	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	11.4
<i>P_{strat}</i>	[mm d ⁻¹]	1.07	1.08	1.08	1.06	–
<i>P_{conv}</i>	[mm d ⁻¹]	1.81	1.81	1.81	1.82	–
<i>P_{tot}</i>	[mm d ⁻¹]	2.89	2.89	2.89	2.88	2.74
SCF	[W m ⁻²]	–47.0	–48.1	–49.1	–49.3	–50
LCF	[W m ⁻²]	29.1	29.1	29.1	29.3	22 – 30

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**Influence of Giant
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processes**R. Posselt and
U. Lohmann**Table 2.** Annual global mean changes in cloud properties and TOA energy budget from PD to PI.

	ECHAM5-	GCCN ₅	GCCN ₁₀	RAIN	HAM
TWP	[g m ⁻²]	3.0	3.2	3.6	7.0
TCC	[%]	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6
N_l	[10 ¹⁰ m ⁻²]	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.3
R_{eff}	[μm]	−0.19	−0.21	−0.21	−0.21
P_{tot}	[mm d ⁻¹]	−0.003	−0.011	−0.001	−0.012
SW	[W m ⁻²]	−1.45	−1.7	−1.85	−2.17
LW	[W m ⁻²]	0.03	0.09	0.16	0.43
Net	[W m ⁻²]	−1.42	−1.61	−1.69	−1.75

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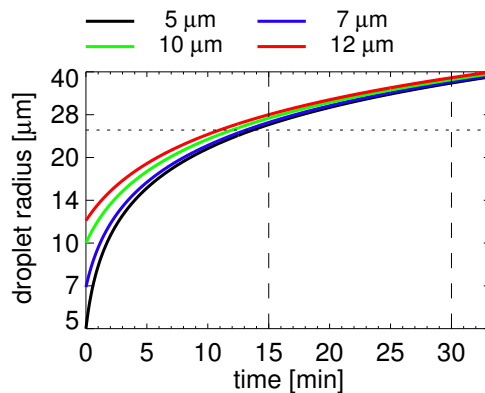


Fig. 1. Condensational growth of different sized GCCN particles.

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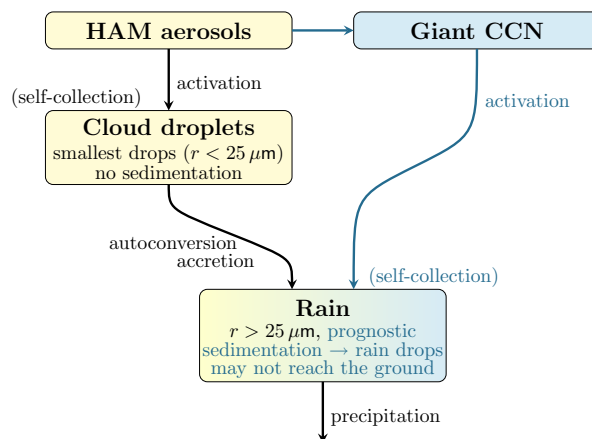


Fig. 2. Schematic of the coupling of the GCCN to the large-scale cloud microphysics scheme. Parts in blue represent changes or additions to the standard large-scale cloud microphysics scheme.

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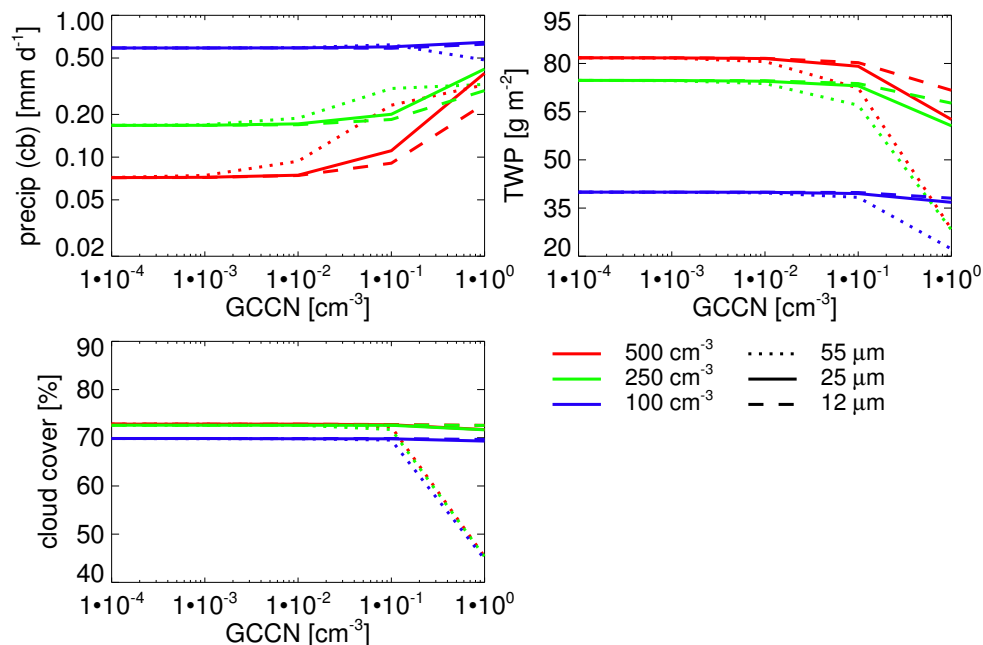


Fig. 3. SCM sensitivity study for precipitation at cloud base (upper left panel), TWP (upper right panel) and cloud cover (lower panel) with different GCCN concentrations, CCN concentrations and activated GCCN-drop radius for 10 sub-time steps.

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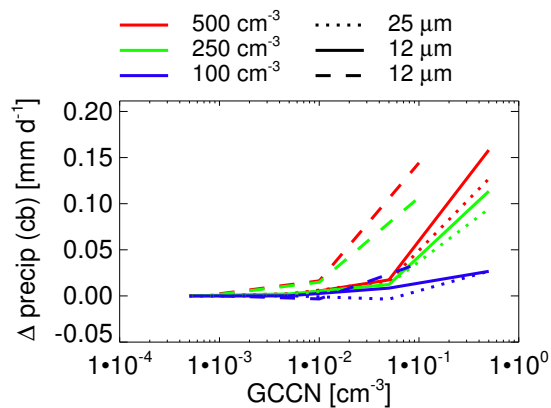


Fig. 4. Difference in precipitation with the same rain water mass formation at activation.

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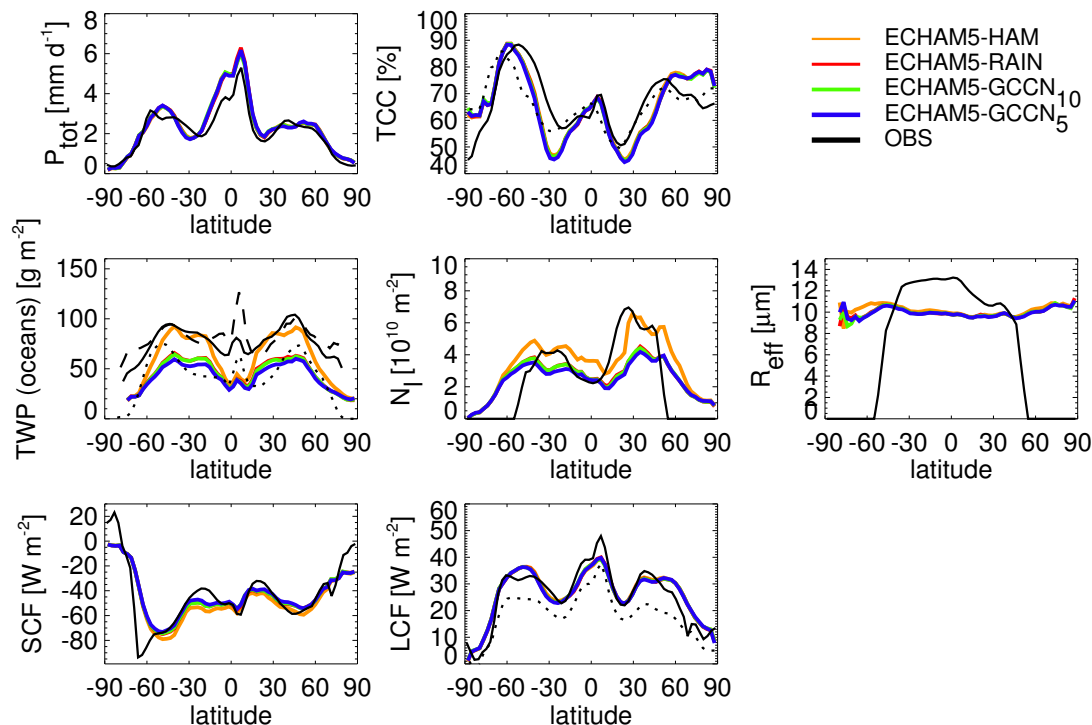


Fig. 5. Annual zonal means of precipitation, total cloud cover, total water path (only over the oceans), column integrated cloud droplet number, effective cloud droplet radius at cloud top ($T > 273.15$ K) and short-wave and long-wave cloud forcing from the ECHAM5-HAM, the ECHAM5-RAIN and the ECHAM5-GCCN simulations and from observations.

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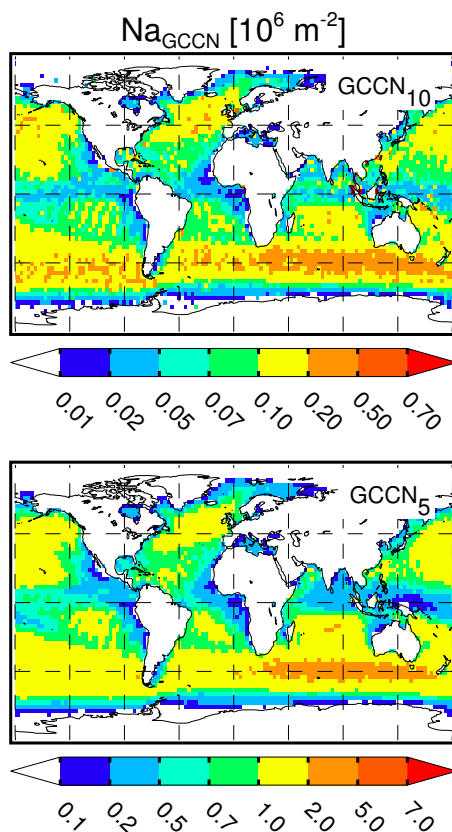


Fig. 6. Column integrated GCCN burden [10^{-6} m^{-2}] for the cutoff radii $10 \mu\text{m}$ (upper panel) and $5 \mu\text{m}$ (lower panel). Note the different scales.

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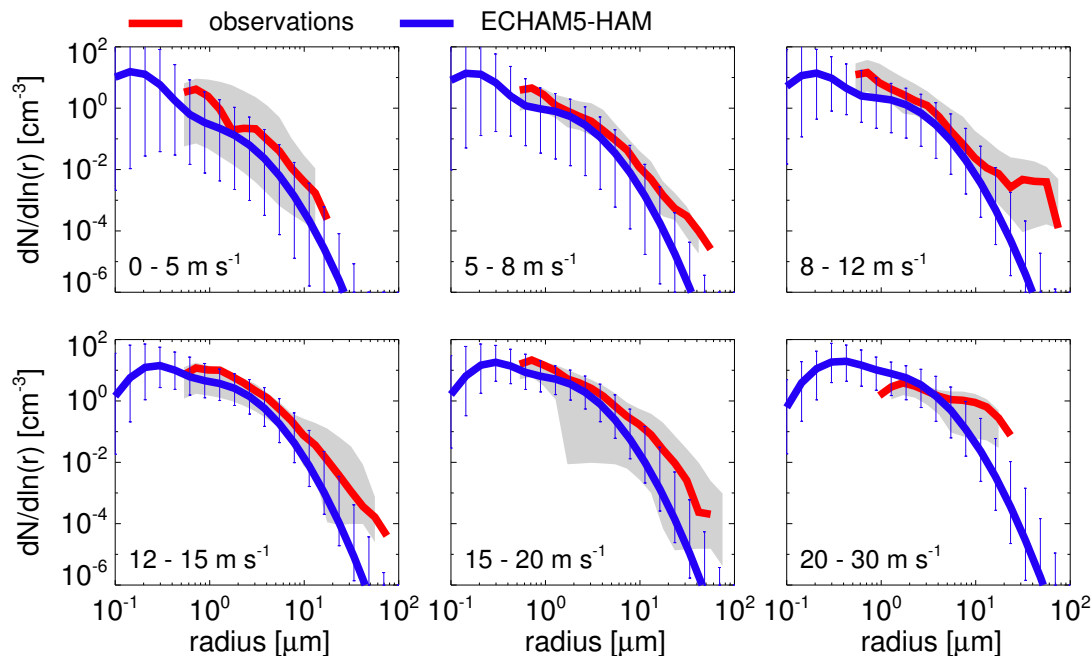


Fig. 7. Sea salt number distributions for different wind speed ranges from observations (red, median with minimum to maximum range in gray) and from simulations (blue, median with 5% and 95% percentile as error bars).

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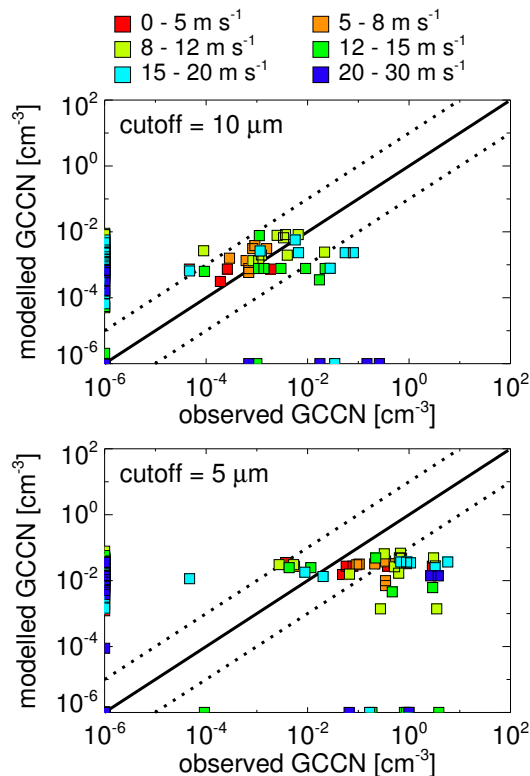


Fig. 8. Scatter plot of simulated and measured giant sea salt concentrations [cm^{-3}] for a cutoff radius of $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (upper panel) and $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (lower panel) for different wind speed ranges.

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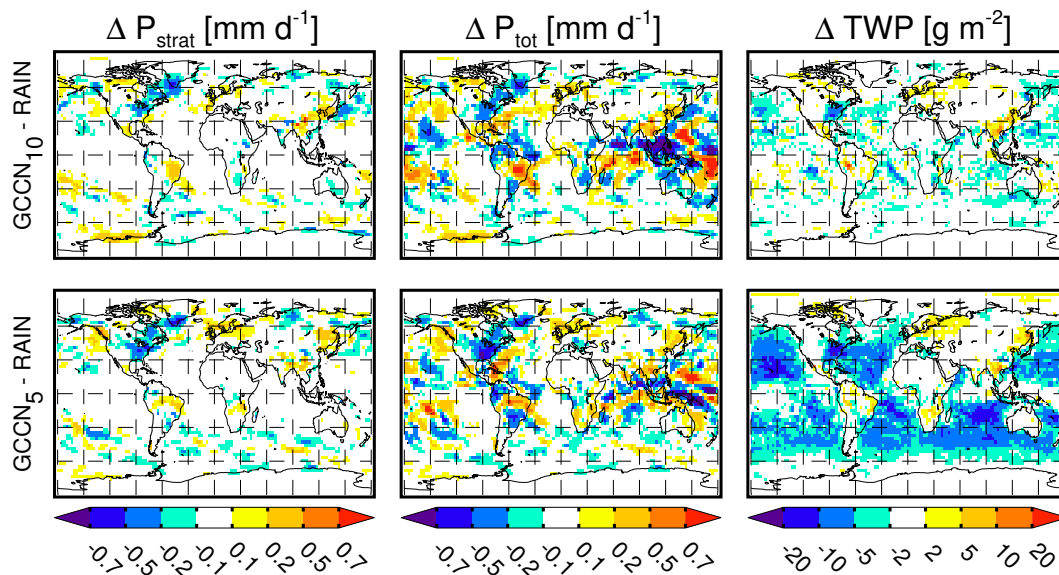


Fig. 9. Differences in the global distribution of stratiform (left panel) and total (middle panel) precipitation and total water path (right panel) between the ECHAM5-GCCN (cutoff radius of 10 μm (upper row) and 5 μm (lower row)) and the ECHAM5-RAIN simulations.

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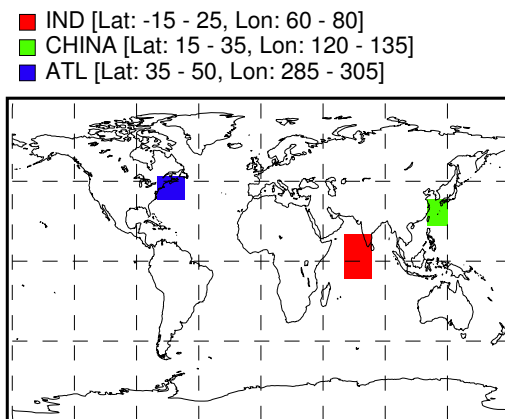


Fig. 10. Location and coverage of the 3 considered regions IND (Indian ocean), CHINA (East-Chinese Sea) and ATL (North-West Atlantic).

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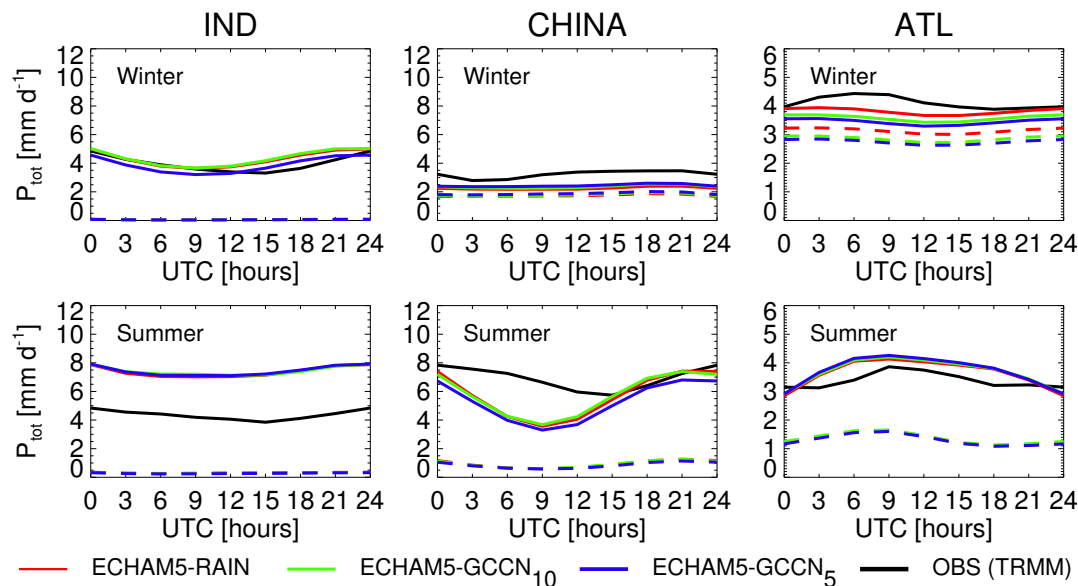


Fig. 11. Diurnal cycles of precipitation (solid=total precipitation, dashed=large-scale precipitation) for IND (left column), the CHINA (middle column) and the North-West Atlantic (right column) with means for Winter (upper row) and Summer (lower row). Note the different precipitation scales for the different regions.

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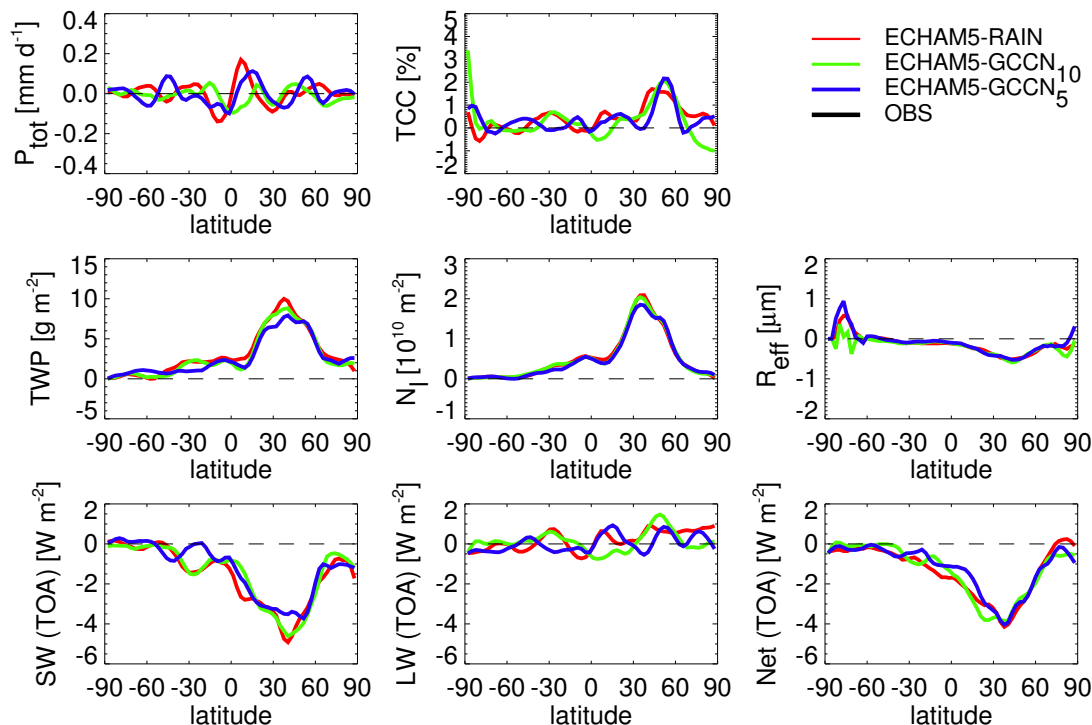


Fig. 12. Annual zonal means differences between the present day and pre-industrial simulations of precipitation, total cloud cover, total water path, column integrated cloud droplet number, effective cloud droplet radius at cloud top ($T > 273.15$ K) as well as short-wave, long-wave and net radiation at TOA from the ECHAM5-RAIN and the ECHAM5-GCCN simulations.

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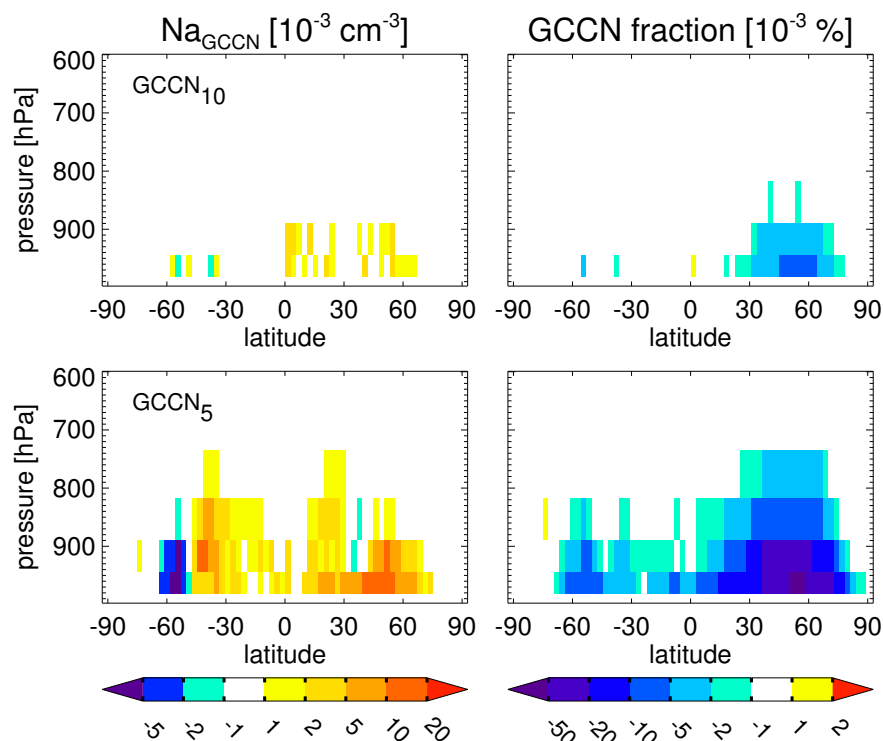
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Fig. 13. Difference of zonal average of giant sea salt concentration and giant sea salt fraction between present day and pre-industrial simulations of ECHAM5-GCCN (cutoff radius of 10 μm (upper row) and 5 μm (lower row).

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